

Claims

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- 5 1. Guiding aid for an instrument to be advanced within a vascular system comprising a flexible shapeable shaft (2) comprising a first bent section (4) having a first curvature K_1 , characterized in that said shaft (2) comprises at least one further bent section (6), with said bent sections (4, 6) of said shaft (2) having the same sign of curvature and being located substantially in the same plain (E).
- 10 2. Guiding aid as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said shaft (2) comprises a single further or second bent section (6) having a second curvature K_2 , which second bent section is located proximal to the first bent section (4).
- 15 3. Guiding aid as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the radius of the first curvature K_1 of said first bent section (4) is smaller than the radius of the second curvature K_2 of said second bent section (6).
4. Guiding aid as claimed in anyone of claims 2 or 3, characterized in that said shaft (2) comprises a straight intermediate section (8) between said first bent section (4) and said second bent section (6).
- 20 5. Guiding aid as claimed in anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that said shaft (2) comprises a straight end section (10) distal to the first bent section (4).
6. Guiding aid as claimed in claims 4 and 5, characterized in that the straight end section (10) and the straight intermediate section (8) include a first obtuse angle (α_1).
- 25 7. Guiding aid as claimed in claim 4 or in claims 4 and 5 or in claim 6, characterized in that said straight intermediate section (8) and the axis (12) of the instrument include a second obtuse angle (α_2).
8. Guiding aid as claimed in claim 6 or 7, characterized in that said first obtuse angle (α_1) and/or said second obtuse angle (α_2) are between 120° and 150° and preferably are about 135° .
9. Guiding aid as claimed in anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that said bent sections (4, 6) are substantially in the shape of a circular arc.
10. Guiding aid as claimed in anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that said shaft (2) is tapered towards its distal end (14).
- 30 11. Guiding aid as claimed in anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that a helically wound spring (16, 20) is located around at least a part of said shaft (2).

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- 5 12. Guiding aid as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that said helically wound spring (20) is provided at its distal end with a rounded terminal element (18).
13. Guiding aid as claimed in anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that said shaft (2) is made of a material having superelastic characteristics.
14. Guiding aid as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that said shaft (2) is made of superelastic nitinol.
15. Guiding aid as claimed in anyone of the preceding claims, characterized in that radiopaque means (20) are provided in the region of said distal end (14) of said shaft (2).
- 10 16. Steerable guide wire comprising a guiding aid as claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 15.
17. Steerable pressure sensing wire comprising a guiding aid as claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 15.
18. Steerable catheter, in particular steerable balloon catheter, comprising a guiding aid as claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 15.
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